

REMARKS

The disclosure is objected to because the abstract contains more than 150 words. The abstract has been amended to more concisely describe the disclosure.

Claims 1-18 remain pending in the application. Of these, claims 1, 9, 13, and 15 are currently amended.

Claims 1-18 are rejected in various combinations under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by Edwards U.S. Patent No. 6,092,528 (Edwards '528) or Laufer et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,033,397 (Laufer '397) and under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Laufer '397 in view of Farley et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,401,719 (Farley '719) and Edwards '528. Claims 1 and 9 have been amended in view of these rejections. Edwards '528 does not teach or suggest a method in which an elongate member is introduced into an esophagus having at least one electrode and an inflatable body that is circumferentially-spaced from and free of physical and electrical contact with any electrode, as defined by the amended claims 1 and 9. Edwards '528 also does not teach or suggest a method that inflates the inflatable body to stabilize the electrode in physical and electrical contact with a selected wall region of the esophagus, while keeping the inflated body free of physical and electrical contact with any electrode, as defined by the amended claims 1 and 9, so that electrical or radiofrequency energy can be delivered in a localized manner to the electrode. Furthermore, the combinations of Laufer '397 and/or Laufer '397 with Edwards '528 is believed to be unjustified, because neither Laufer '397 nor Farley '719 teach or suggest a method that comprises introducing an elongate member into an esophagus. Instead, Laufer '397 and Farley '719 teach venous introduction into esophageal varices. Claims 2-8 depend from the amended claim 1 and claims 10-18 depend from the amended claim 9 and are therefore also believed to be allowable over the cited references. Of these, claims 13 and 15 have been amended to correct typographical errors.

Reconsideration in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks and allowance of claims 1-18 is respectfully requested.

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Amendment A

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